

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office action dated October 18, 2006, wherein the restriction requirement was made final; claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e); and claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 22, and 23 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims.

The applicants herein respectfully request that claims 1, 39, and 40 be canceled, that the amendments to claims 2-27 be entered as they are provided herein, and that new claims 41-51 be entered. Claims 10, 11, and 13 were indicated allowable if rewritten in independent form including all elements of their parent claims, and are believed to comply with that indication and to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-9, 12, and 14-28 are each dependent respectively on one of those independent claims that were previously indicated to be allowable. New claims 41-51 are identical to claims that have already been considered other than their dependency, and are also each dependent respectively on one of those independent claims that were previously indicated to be allowable. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that these claims do not require further substantive examination and are in condition for allowance in the present amendment after final. The applicants thereby believe that all remaining claims are in condition for allowance due at least to their dependence on one of the claims previously indicated to be allowable.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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